

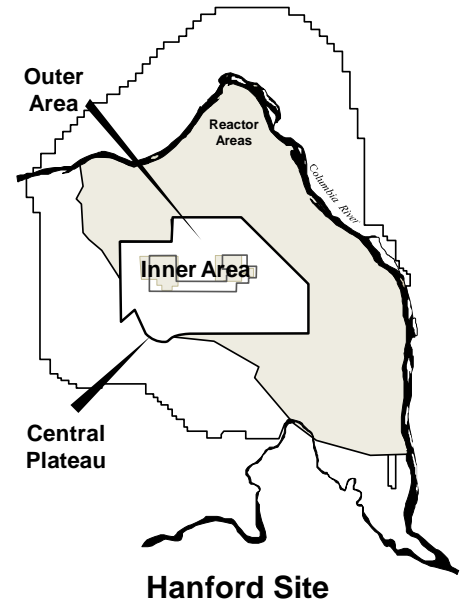
Notice of Upcoming Public Comment Period

PROPOSED TPA CHANGES TO CENTRAL PLATEAU CLEANUP WORK

The Tri-Party Agreement (TPA) agencies -- the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -- are proposing changes to a number of TPA milestones involving the Central Plateau. The agencies expect to complete negotiations by the end of March, 2010. The proposed changes involve the following cleanup activities:

- Central Plateau waste sites, facilities and groundwater
- Mixed transuranic waste and mixed low-level waste stored in the Central Plateau

In spring 2009, the TPA agencies held a public comment period on proposed milestone changes that were developed by considering anticipated budgets and shared cleanup priorities of the TPA agencies, stakeholders and the public. The result was August, 2009 TPA changes that focused on cleaning up the River Corridor, containing and cleaning up groundwater and reducing Hanford's active cleanup footprint. Some of these 2009 milestones required the agencies to negotiate new schedules for certain Central Plateau cleanup work that is the subject of this notice.



Below is a brief summary of what is being proposed in the draft change packages:

Central Plateau waste sites, facilities and groundwater

- Implement a geographic cleanup approach that addresses cleanup of Central Plateau waste sites, facilities, pipelines and groundwater
- Issue a single Record of Decision for approximately 180 waste sites in three Operable Units (*groupings of waste sites*) that make up the Central Plateau's Outer Area
- Provide more focus in the TPA to address deep vadose zone (*the soil between the ground surface and the water table*) contamination
- Add milestones to clean up and disposition the canyon facilities (*large chemical processing buildings that were used to separate plutonium from irradiated uranium fuel elements and for other processing operations during the World War II and Cold War eras*)
- Allow for TPA changes to coordinate Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) decision processes to produce a Corrective Action Decision and Record of Decision, (*CAD and ROD*) for selected past-practice units in the 200 Area
- Shift the responsibility for writing the draft CERCLA ROD from the regulatory agencies to DOE

Mixed transuranic waste and mixed low-level waste

- Add milestones for retrieval, certification and shipment of mixed transuranic waste off-site
- Set target dates for retrieval and certification of mixed transuranic waste for 2012-2014
- Set milestones for the treatment of legacy mixed low-level waste
- Improve readability of the M-91 milestone series by creating stand-alone milestones previously embedded in milestone text.

In addition, the agencies propose a RCRA permit modification to support the proposed TPA CAD and ROD process changes. Public comment on this draft permit modification will be held at the same time as the public comment period on the proposed changes to the TPA.

The agencies want your input on these proposed milestone changes and are planning to hold a 45-day public comment period expected to begin early April, 2010. Based on level of stakeholder interest, the agencies will consider holding a public meeting(s). To request a public meeting, call the Hanford Cleanup Hotline 1-800-321-2008 or reply to this email. If the agencies decide to hold public meeting(s), dates and locations will be identified in a fact sheet to be mailed prior to the start of the public comment period.